

## THE SIMPSON FAMILY OF MADISON COUNTY ALABAMA

SIMPSON, also spelled Simson, as well as its variants Sim, Simes and Simms, are of baptismal origin, meaning "the son of Simon" from the nickname Sim.<sup>1</sup> The Scottish Fraser and Simpson families had their origin with the French knight Simon de Frezel from the Province of Anjou. Simon's father, Rene Frezel, who was living in 1030, was the first known of the name. He made donations to the Abbey of Notre Dame Des Noyers in Touraine, which was confirmed by a declaration of King Robert given at Orleans the same year.

### WHY IS YOUR NAME SIMPSON INSTEAD OF FRASER?

In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries people in Scotland and the British Isles were not particular about their surnames. Many Frasers, who were children of a Simon Fraser chose to take the name Simon's Sons or Simson. This sense of pride was a result of the patriarch of the Fraser Clan having been named Simon, with many of his successors bearing the same name.

About the fifteenth century the Scots started to adopt the Welsh custom of placing a "p" between the name of father and son, as in the Welsh name Thompson. It took almost 200 years for most of the Simsons to become Simpson, and it is today very rare to find a family still using the name Simson.<sup>2</sup>

### THE CLAN FRASER OF LOVAT

Simpson descendants should be aware of the Scottish Clan affiliations of their ancestors who lived and worked under the Clan system for several hundred years, between the arrival of Simon De Frezel in 1066 with William The Conqueror until our particular ancestor's departure for Ulster in the 1600's, when they left the Clan protection.

In addition to the Fraser family, the following Scottish families are also members of this Clan:

Bissett	MacSimon	Simpson	Symon
Macimney	MacSyman	Simson	MacGruer
MacKin	Sim	Symo	MacTavish
MacKinnie	Sime	Symmer	Tweedie
MacShimes			

The Clan is a very old social institution and occurs in many parts of the world. Many of the Scottish Highland Clans were founded in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Clan Fraser of Lovat was one of these.